

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Please add new claims 18 through 23. Each additional claim is fully supported by the specification as filed and does not constitute new matter.

- 1) (previously presented) An adjustable shroud for use in a melt spinning process having a spinneret, comprising: an adjustable shroud, said shroud having means to secure it in close proximity beneath said spinneret, and means to adjust the length of the shroud.
- 2) (original) The adjustable shroud of claim 1, wherein said adjustable shroud is quadrilateral, oval or circular in cross-section.
- 3) (original) The adjustable shroud of claim 2, wherein two fixed walls form said quadrilateral shroud with two folding walls.
- 4) (original) The adjustable shroud of claim 1, wherein said shroud is in the form of a bellows or of nesting walls.
- 5) (original) The adjustable shroud of claim 1, wherein said means to adjust the length of said shroud is pneumatic, hydraulic, or one or more mechanical worm screws.
- 6) (original) The adjustable shroud of claim 1, wherein said shroud contains heating means.
- 7) (previously presented) The combination of an adjustable shroud and a spinneret, comprising a spinneret for producing synthetic fibers; an adjustable shroud having means to secure it in close proximity beneath said spinneret, and means to adjust the length of the shroud; said shroud containing heating means.

- 8) (original) The combination of claim 8, wherein said adjustable shroud is quadrilateral or circular in cross-section.
- 9) (original) The combination of claim 8, wherein two fixed walls form said quadrilateral shroud with two folding walls.
- 10) (original) The combination of claim 7, wherein said shroud is in the form of a bellows or of nesting walls.
- 11) (original) The combination of claim 7, wherein said means to adjust the length of said shroud is pneumatic, hydraulic, or one or more mechanical worm screws.
- 12) (withdrawn) A melt spinning process for making synthetic fiber, comprising:
 - a) determining the optimum cooling and draw down ratio of said fibers;
 - b) adjusting the shroud length to obtain the optimum cooling and draw down ratio;
 - c) spinning fibers from a polymer melt; and
 - d) passing said spun fibers through said shroud.
- 13) (withdrawn) The melt spinning process of claim 12, wherein said adjustable shroud is quadrilateral or circular in cross-section.
- 14) (withdrawn) The melt spinning process of claim 13, wherein two fixed walls form said quadrilateral shroud with two folding walls.
- 15) (withdrawn) The melt spinning process of claim 12, wherein said shroud is in the form of a bellows or of nesting walls.
- 16) (withdrawn) The melt spinning process of claim 12, wherein adjusting said length of said shroud is accomplished by pneumatic, hydraulic, or one or more mechanical worm screws.

- 17) (withdrawn) The melt spinning process of claim 12, further including the step of heating said spun fibers as they pass through said shroud.
- 18) (new) The adjustable shroud of claim 1, wherein said shroud is secured to the spinneret.
- 19) (new) The adjustable shroud of claim 1, wherein said shroud is not a quenching device, and quenching occurs after material passes through the shroud.
- 20) (new) The invention of claim 7, wherein said shroud is secured to said spinneret.
- 21) (new) The invention of claim 7, further comprising a quenching device located downstream from said adjustable shroud and said spinneret.
- 22) (new) The invention of claim 1, further comprising a dow box positioned between said spinneret and said shroud.
- 23) (new) The invention of claim 7, further comprising a dow box positioned between said spinneret and said shroud.